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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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COGSWELL BUILDING



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

July 5, 1983

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

RE: Preliminary Environmental Review
Chuck Cromer dba/Western Towing

Board of County Commissioners, Courthouse, Kalispell, MT 59901
Tom Cowan, Sanitarian, 723 5th Ave. E, Kalispell, MT 59901
Nakul Verma, Flathead Regional Development Office, 723 5th Ave. E,
Kalispell, MT 59901
Mayor, Columbia Falls City Hall, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Charles Fisher, Chairman, Columbia Falls Board of Adjustments, City Hall,
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Chuck Cromer, Western Towing, 295 4th St. E.N., Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Gary Stempin, JV Project Director, Box 168, Kalispell
Roy Babcock, Building Inspector, City Hall, Drawer 6, Columbia Falls, MT
59912
Mr. Dale Darsow, 365 4th Ave. EN, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Chuck Cromer dba/Western Towing.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Mitchell
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

JUL 22 1983

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

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PLEASE RETURN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 449-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Chuck Cromer dba/ Western Towing

Description of Project Establishing and licensing a motor vehicle wrecking facility
in Columbia Falls, MT (see map).

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites					X	

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue			X			X
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income			X			X
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment			X			X
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals			X			X
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Flathead Regional Development Office, Flathead

County Solid Waste

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. Flathead Regional Development Office/

Columbia Falls Board of Adjustments

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS not necessary

PER Prepared by: Larry D. Mitchell

Date: July 5, 1983

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. Aesthetics

The state Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal law and regulations require motor vehicle wrecking facilities to be shielded from public view. No junked vehicles may be visible from a point six feet above the centerline of any public roadway. The regulations permit screening with natural vegetation provided that it meets proper density, height and temporal continuity standards.

This proposed facility consists of a vehicle storage yard approximately 100 feet wide by 200 feet long north of a shop building on the applicant's property. It is presently marginally screened from public view by existing buildings and native evergreen vegetation. The north side does not need screening at present due to the lack of public roads to the north. The west perimeter is adequately screened from 4th Street by dense vegetation. Should it be removed by future development, additional screening may be necessary for the west side of the facility. The east side is partially screened from a public road across the railroad tracks to the south by Superior Lumber Company buildings and some vegetation. The railroad tracks and parallel sidings are apparently used continuously for rail car storage. At the time of inspection no fewer than three train segments were on the tracks providing an effective screen for the facility. It was impossible to view the yard past this blockade to determine whether or not additional screening is even necessary in the absence of the railcars. If so, screening can easily be added to the east side of the yard at a later date. The applicant and other advise that trains servicing the adjacent lumber mill and others are constantly present.

The south side of the facility is that currently most visible from public view along 4th Street EN. A small portion of the yard and some junked vehicles are visible between stands of existing vegetation and buildings. The applicant has proposed the planting of additional evergreen trees in this area which should adequately screen the facility. This planting is also a requirement imposed by the local Board of Adjustments in granting its conditional use permit.

This proposed facility should be shielded in compliance with the Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal law and rules if this additional screening is added to the south perimeter to block view from 4th St. EN. Expansion of the vehicle storage yard and/or removal of existing buildings or vegetation may require the construction of additional shielding. The aesthetic impact of a properly screened and maintained motor vehicle wrecking facility should not be significant.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue.
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income.
8. Quantity and distribution of employment.

Establishing and licensing this proposed facility should have a minor positive impact on all of the above criteria. Additional income and employment opportunities should result at least for the applicant/owner and any additional employees necessary for the operation.

10. Demands for government services.

Periodic routine inspections by state and local junk vehicle program officials will be necessary to assure that the facility is being maintained and operated in compliance with the Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal law and rules. A minor amount of administrative effort will be required in establishing files and in correspondence with the business. Local administrative effort will be necessary to assure that conditional land use permit requirements are implemented. Demands for other government services are not expected to be significant.

13. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

The site for this facility has been zoned L-1 Light Industry. Therefore a conditional use permit is required by the Flathead Regional Development Office through the Columbia Falls Extra-Terrestrial Board of Adjustments. Such a permit has been applied for and granted by unanimous vote of the Board with the following conditions:

1. That the driveway along the easterly boundary of the property remain closed.
2. That additional evergreen plantings occur this year to more adequately screen the facility from 4th St. EN and
3. That the vehicle storage yard be fenced with a 6 foot chain link fence within one year.

A state motor vehicle wrecking facility license may be issued for this facility following the installation of additional screening such that the facility will be screened from public view as required. The issuance of such a license is conditional upon the consent of local zoning or planning authorities. Should the conditional use permit be revoked for non-compliance with local zoning ordinances, the wrecking facility license must necessarily be revoked as well.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Environmental Sciences Division
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Helena, Montana 59601

MOTOR VEHICLE WRECKING FACILITY

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

Complete this form and return with attachments to: Solid Waste Management Bureau
Montana Department of Health and
Environmental Sciences
Room A201, Cogswell Building
Helena, MT 59620

- 1) Name of applicant: Chuck Cramer
- 2) Name of facility: Western Towing
- 3) Address: 295 4th St SW, Col. Falls, MT 59912
- 4) Size and legal description of facility: NEW-NEW-8-30-20W
Flathead Co. MT - 5 Acres Tracts 10CA, 10BA
- 5) If you are not the owner of the premises, give name and address of lessor who holds title to the property:
Name: _____
Address: _____
- 6) Attachments: a) Map of city or county showing proposed location of facility.
b) Drawing of proposed facility showing especially the type and adequacy of shielding of facility from public view and location of buildings.
- 7) I hereby certify that the site of the planned motor vehicle wrecking facility is in accordance with local government zoning and ordinances (to be signed by appropriate local government official having knowledge of local zoning ordinances).

TITLE: Ray F. Baberch
OF: Building Inspector of Columbia Falls, MT 59912
(city or county)

8) Date (year and month) that your facility will begin operation: march-1983

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: C Cramer PHONE: 892-5413

TITLE: Owner DATE: 3-18-83

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MAR 21 1983

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
SOLID WASTE SECTION



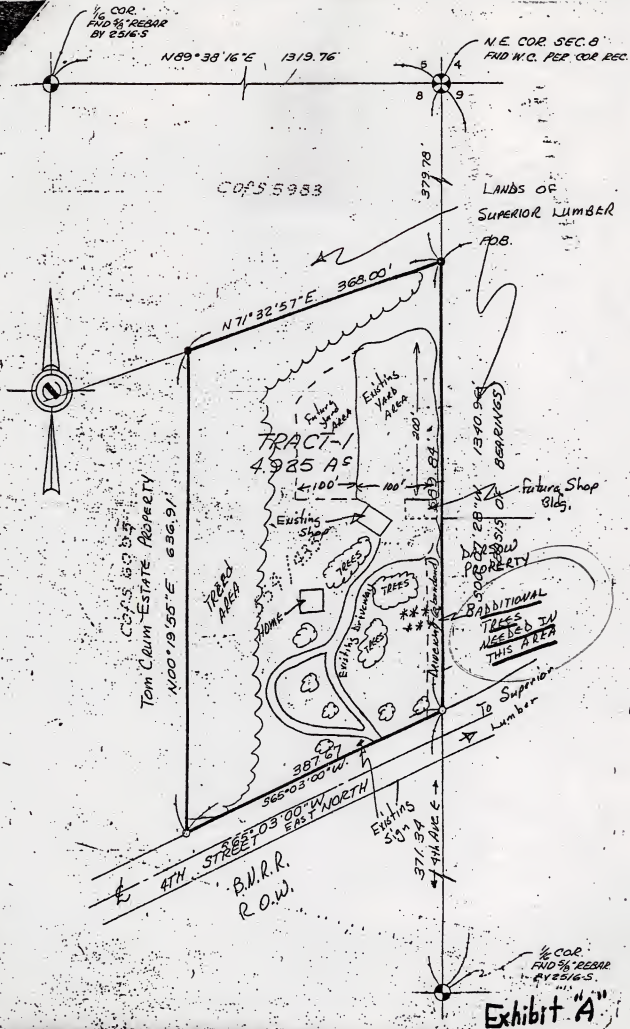


Exhibit "A"

